

enhanced building capability, which is the goal of planned interior upgrades, is not unreasonable in terms of cost and purpose. And S. 2260, as passed, would place the ceiling on build-out that the IG recommends.

Two of the PTO's three unions fully support the project. National Treasury Employees Union locals 243 (representing clerical and administrative staff) and 245 (representing trademark examining attorneys) have already signed a partnership agreement supporting PTO's plans for the project. The PTO is continuing talks with the third union.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 29, 1998.

Hon. JOHN W. WARNER,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WARNER: In light of recent reports on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's (PTO) on-going procurement process to competitively acquire new, consolidated space for the PTO, I want to assure you that this procurement is based on sound principles.

These reports are focused on estimates of furniture costs mentioned in our Deva and Associates business case study. This study was undertaken to compare our present, unconsolidated space with a worst-case scenario of moving to a new, consolidated facility under the GSA prospectus.

Many of the dollar amounts cited in the Deva report are being touted as what the PTO is spending for furniture at a new facility. Nothing is farther from the truth. I personally assure you, we have never contemplated nor will we spend \$250 for a shower curtain, \$750 for a crib, or \$1,000 for a coat rack. I agree that some of these furniture estimates are too high even for a worst-case scenario. However, it must be kept in mind that even with these extremely high estimates, this procurement project still shows savings of at least \$72 million. No one is disputing this fact.

I look forward to working with you and our appropriators to ensure that any expenditures for furniture are prudent and responsible. Delaying or stopping this procurement will only increase space costs for our fee-paying customers.

Sincerely,

BRUCE A. LEHMAN,
Assistant Secretary of Commerce and
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.●

AUNG SAN SUU KYI THE INDOMITABLE

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, for eight years Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi has battled the military junta in an indomitable, peaceful way which deserves the admiration of us all. For five of these years she was held under house arrest. This is no longer the case, though events of the last week show that her freedom continues to be limited, as is the freedom of all Burmese citizens.

Last Friday, Aung San Suu Kyi began a journey to meet with members of her National League for Democracy in Nyaungdon township, outside of the capital. She never made it. The thugs who run the military junta blocked her passage. She spent six days in her car surrounded by soldiers who prevented her from crossing a bridge about 30 miles outside of the capital.

These actions were rightly criticized by many of the foreign ministers attending the annual meeting of the As-

sociation of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including our own Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. As Keith B. Richburg reported in the Washington Post yesterday, "the foreign ministers of six nations and the European Union confronted a top Burmese official today with a blunt message: No harm must come to the Nobel Peace Prize winner." I think it is clear that we in the Senate share this sentiment. We hold the leaders of the military junta in Burma responsible for the safety of Aung San Suu Kyi. Period.

She has demonstrated uncommon restraint and valor in her often tense encounters with the junta. This last week has been no exception. She sat in her car for days, yet when she spoke, she did so firmly and without rancor. She called for dialogue between the NLD and the junta and consistently speaks of upholding the rule of law. She has recently called for the true parliament of Burma—the one elected in 1990—to be convened by August 21. Perhaps this will be an opportunity for the junta to step aside.

The junta has failed miserably. Burma is a country rich in resources which has been run into the ground by an irresponsible junta. Its elected leaders have been censored, jailed, and worse. The junta has no legitimacy and should step aside and let the rightful and elected government of Burma take control. The people of Burma made clear their preference. Eight years is long enough to wait.●

I-90 LAND EXCHANGE

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, on July 23, the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management held a hearing on legislation I have introduced to complete an important land exchange in my state. The bill, S. 2136, would authorize and direct the Forest Service to conclude an exchange with Plum Creek Timber Company which has been under formal discussion for several years.

The exchange is in an area of Washington surrounding the Interstate 90 corridor through the central Cascades. This area is characterized by a "checkerboard" ownership pattern of intermingled ownership between Plum Creek and the Forest Service. These lands are among the most studied not only in my state but the Nation.

The problems of checkerboard ownership are well recognized and understood in the west and northwest. This exchange, trading 60,000 of Plum Creek land for 40,000 acres of Forest Service land, would help resolve many management issues for both owners. It would make management more efficient, especially on an ecosystem basis.

I introduced my bill to provide impetus to complete this exchange by year's end because of the need for a speedy resolution. If the exchange is not completed by the end of this year, Plum Creek will have no choice but to resume logging their land in 1999. The company has deferred harvests on 90

percent of the exchange lands for the past 2 years and they have firmly stated they cannot continue to do so.

There is broad public support for the exchange and for completing it in a timely fashion. Our governor, Gary Locke, and the Lands Commissioner, Jennifer Belcher, have endorsed the exchange—urging it's completion by the end of 1998. The State Legislature unanimously approved a resolution in support of the I-90 exchange. Major newspapers in Seattle and other cities have recognized the need to finish this exchange. Many environmental groups support a land exchange.

Mr. President, our subcommittee hearing pointed out the difficult problems we face in Washington when we try to resolve issues. There always seems to be a controversy, no matter how worthy the purpose. My legislation and the I-90 exchange are no different.

Representatives from the environmental community, Plum Creek and the Forest Service testified on July 23. While mainstream environmental groups heartily support an exchange, they would prefer to see changes in the lands package identified in a draft Environmental Impact Statement released earlier this spring. Environmental groups are concerned about legislation circumventing appeals and litigation.

The Forest Service wants to complete the exchange, but opposes legislation. I am disappointed that the Administration, having worked on this proposal for so long, would oppose a bill designed to enact a land exchange it has negotiated. Each party has spent over \$1 million getting to this point. Must we spend more, only to run the risk of seeing the entire exchange fall apart as a result of the heavy weight of appeals and litigation?

The I-90 exchange has been proposed in various shapes and sizes for more than a decade. Since it was first considered, the Northern Spotted Owl has been listed under the Endangered Species Act and the President has put his Northwest Forest Plan in effect. Plum Creek has even completed a massive Habitat Conservation Plan on 170,000 acres of its lands—including those in this exchange. This Plan, now two years old, was negotiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. With this background and the resulting studies, I am confident we can complete an exchange on these lands that represents a consensus.

Mr. President, I recognize and support the idea of getting it right. We have been at this exchange too long not to do just that. When I introduced S. 2136, I indicated it was simply a place holder. The final Environmental Impact Statement will be completed later this summer. It has been my intention to amend the legislation to incorporate necessary changes based on the final EIS.

After hearing the testimony of all parties, I have urged them to work together to identify a lands package that